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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

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MARCH 1957

Employment in February 5,400 Above a Year Ago

While total number of wage earners in Montana non-farm industry in February showed a normal seasonal decline of 1,500, January to February, it rose 5,400 above the figure for February of 1956, estimates released by the Commission in co-operation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics show. The February employment is given as 157,500, a year ago it was 152,100, and seven years ago 132,200.

Only 1,500 Fewer Than February

The seasonal employment shrinkage was 800 in manufacturing—food processing and lumber and logging being the principal fields of decline, January to February. Contract construction, of buildings and in the heavy division, was down 500. Retail trade dipped 200 below January, and mining was down a net 100, after metal mining had gained and coal mining and petroleum production had each receded. Government employment was 100 higher than in January.

General Upward Trend Through the Year

The upward trend from a year ago centered in construction contractor crews with 1,600 more than in February of 1956; wholesale and retail trade had 1,500 more—gains shown in both divisions; government employment rose 1,500 from a year ago, 1,300 in state and local circles, and 200 in federal; service industries were up 500; finance, insurance and real estate 400; and mining showed a healthy 400 growth—200 in metal mining, 400 in petroleum production, partially offset by a shrinkage of 200 in coal mining. The only major industry decline is registered in transportation and utilities, where interstate railroads are down 600 from last February, airlines and bus-truck up 400, and communications 100, for a net employment loss of 100.

Sets New February Record

The February levels set a new record for the month, displacing the year-ago record. Every February since 1950 has shown a plus margin over its predecessor, and it was the 27th successive month with more employment in numbers than in the corresponding month of the previous year.

20,000 Decline from August

Complete seasonal employment swing from midsummer high to February low this year is an even 20,000, from 177,500 in August to 157,500 for February. Six major industries employed fewer in February, only two, mining and finance, tied the August high. Seasonal decline over the six month period, by major industries, was 3,200 in manufacturing; 6,900 in contract construction; 2,600 in transportation and utilities; 4,200 in wholesale and retail trade; 2,900 in service industries; and 200 in government payrolls.

NEAR-RECORD LABOR SURPLUS BUILDS UP THROUGH FEBRUARY LAYOFFS IN INDUSTRY

Continuing layoffs, shutdowns, and force reductions during February added 2,000 to an already large applicant surplus in Montana labor markets, as indicated by work-registrations in active files of employment service offices in the state. As a result there are 16,695 such applicants carried into March, 3,600 more than a year ago, 6,500 more than five years ago, and less than 2,000 below the post-war record figures reached in February of 1950.

Nearly All Industries Affected

Nearly all industries were affected to some degree, with construction and the timber industries bearing the brunt. Weather conditions delayed a return to work in many instances, but the new layoffs were fairly independent of weather, since they occurred on jobs that had persisted in face of much more severe conditions in January. The few work resumptions that occurred were outweighed in the avalanche of new force reductions.

Work-Applicant Count in Review

	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951
January	14,792	12,676	12,887	12,270	10,616	10,370	11,685
February	16,695	13,061	12,304	12,455	10,995	10,136	12,336
March	15,000*	12,663	11,979	11,075	9,323	9,392	10,844
May		5,105	5,565	6,191	4,324	3,276	4,312
July		3,807	4,628	4,283	3,249	2,191	3,260
September		2,889	2,781	3,782	2,288	1,388	2,304
November		6,453	6,968	5,617	5,048	4,135	4,341

*Estimated.

13,800 Job Shrinkage Since August

Magnitude of the labor supply at the beginning of March is reflected by comparison with last summer's low, reached in August. The spread from 3,808 available workers in August to 16,695 in February measures 13,887. A year ago the similar spread was 10,603, against 9,368 in 1955. Only the winter of 1950, when a mild recession flowed into the state from the big centers of industry, had a larger supply of unemployed applicants than this winter. The top figure then was 18,556 in February, and its spread over the previous August was 15,236.

Larger Working Force Reflected

Curtailment of production in the timber areas, in response to a faltering lumber market, was responsible for some of the current rise in unemployment. Another factor is the presence of a greater working force in the state, which furnishes a more substantial reserve labor force even in the face of normal seasonal employment levels. Suspension of outdoor construction activities, and completion of many of the projects which had furnished inside work up to this time, has added to the February surplus.

Construction Crews at Minimum

Reports indicate that construction is at a bedrock level of employment, though a prompt recovery to high levels of last summer is expected to accompany the arrival of mild, settled weather. Heavy employment will be required on such projects as the Noxon dam, a new power dam at Great Falls, airbase construction at Glasgow and Great Falls, commercial and public buildings and residences, and a large

number of school buildings at various points in the state. Some of these are already started, others are in contract stages.

Highway Trend is Upward

While most construction divisions were experiencing a force reduction in February, the state highway contractors increased their payroll numbers by 50 percent, from 72 in January to 111 in February. This is only 39 below the figure of February in 1956. Most of the highway work was on bridges, where more than \$5,000,000 worth of projects are under contract. About 400 miles of road are under reconstruction contract, but only 30 miles were active in February. Maintenance crews on the state system numbered 730 this February, 700 a year ago.

Qualified Miners Still in Demand

Mining employment, only a minor portion subject to seasonal fluctuation, is still hampered by lack of qualified, available applicants, and this in turn because of insufficient housing facilities for new residents. Expansion plans in metal mining give promise of still further labor demands in that field. Two new shafts for block-mining are due to start this year, one in March or April, the other in mid-summer.

Trade and Services Curtail

Wholesale and retail trade forces have been trimmed since the first of the year, as an indirect result of reduced employment in basic industries. The same is true in the service industries, especially repair shops and service stations. Railroad operations respond to the same influence and employment there is at seasonal low.

(Continued on Page Two)

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary—March 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg—(169 jobseekers, 69 new; 89 men, 80 women). Labor demand continued extremely light through February. Hiring for trade and for agriculture was slight; a small turnover at the smelter was more than supplied from local sources and a few transients from a steady run of travelers. Construction is dormant, not even stirring in recent favorable weather.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Hysham, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—2,492 jobseekers, 603 new; 1,981 men, 511 women). Still more layoffs from construction projects in February, along with a few completions. Resumption on main jobs expected in March, increase to full crews in April. Extensive building program is in prospect for the season. Railroad employment at low level, seasonal. Maintenance crews will be expanded and extra gangs sent out in April. Heavy surplus of farm labor, with but little hiring to date.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—(579 jobseekers, 134 new; 421 men, 158 women). Inside work continuing on college buildings and high school, which will reach completion this spring. Bridge and road jobs at a standstill due to adverse weather. Logging and pulpwood proceeding on reduced employment, due to weather and slow market. Trade employment continued at low level since holidays, will perk up in spring. Farm demand beginning to be felt, hiring deferred until weather permits field operations.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(903 jobseekers, 350 new; 599 men, 304 women). Outside construction work stymied by weather conditions. Miner shortage persists, with shortage of housing and of qualified applicants. Railroad track work beginning as winter recedes, only slight demand felt thus far. A meat packing plant closed, idling 50 workers, may re-open in March. One shift in manganese plant laid off, affecting 20; it, too, is expected to re-open in the spring. Railroad track work beginning, few hires. Many transients on the road.

CUT BANK—(450 jobseekers, 77 new; 360 men, 90 women). A new elevator to be built west of city by Montana contractor, may absorb some of surplus building labor. Start of a new gymnasium for the high school delayed in legal action. Other construction at low ebb, some projects to resume as spring develops. Oil field demand likewise dormant but should improve in March and April.

DILLON—(227 jobseekers, 84 new; 179 men, 48 women). Tungsten operations ceased with cancellation of stockpiling program, idling 60 workers. Phosphate mine closed since November will resume in March, using 75. Building of truck detour to start soon. Work begun on power and light line and railroad has begun hiring track workers. Survey crew laid off ten days, has resumed. Renovation of college building slated for March start, using 10 men. Livestock tenders are principal agricultural hiring activity.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—(628 jobseekers, 104 new; 500 men and 128 women). Crews on airbase construc-

LABOR MARKET INDICATORS

Employment—	Feb. 1957	Jan. 1957	Feb. 1956	Feb. Avg. 1950-1956
Industrial Employment	157,500	159,000	152,100	143,000
New Job Applicants	3,921	5,499	3,617	3,171
Job Applicants, End of Month	16,695	14,792	13,061	12,835
Insured Unemployment—	Mar. 8 1957	Feb. 8 1957	Mar. 9 1956	Avg. 1st Mar. Wk. 1950-1956
New and Renewal Claims	979	1,502	827	664
Unemployed Weeks Filed	12,074	11,511	9,574	8,632
Total Unemployment Claims	13,053	13,013	10,401	9,296

tion trimmed to winter low of about 75, work starts again in March, weather permitting. Small crews engaged in building homes, bank, service station, and other structures. Heavy employment activity expected in spring months, though present local supply appears ample until airbase gets under full steam. Building of a second power plant at Fort Peck will be a labor market factor beginning this summer, completion expected in 1959.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—(280 jobseekers, 142 new; 222 men, 58 women). Increased hiring for oil field work already apparent, with busy season ahead. Circle area promises brisk demand. Local contractors ready to resume as weather moderates. New school building nearing contract stage. Reduction expected in railway shop crews in March, due to equipment changes.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(1,694 jobseekers, 433 new; 1,265 men, 429 women). Less hiring and more unemployment in area than year ago. Construction almost completely halted, a few projects maintaining token forces only. Resumption should be on substantial scale in late March and April. Road and street paving, commercial and residence building, expansion of airbase facilities, all expected to be in labor market shortly. Building of new power dam will require expanded force as weather moderates. Farm season is opening late, spring hiring just beginning, ample supply available.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(707 jobseekers, 76 new; 556 men, 151 women). Layoffs in the lumber industry continue, partly due to weather but also influenced by market behavior. Virtually all construction workers are also idle, a seasonal pattern. More farm operators than usual are seeking work in industry, either temporarily or for longer periods. Residence construction offers the best prospect of construction employment for spring. Farm work will start soon, and mines will re-open as weather conditions permit. Lumber and

logging remains uncertain as to employment prospect.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—(458 jobseekers, 106 new; 370 men, 88 women). Very little hiring in February, all outside work halted by wintry weather. Construction work expected to open in late March; school and college buildings will be major projects. Railroad hiring probably start in April, with several extra gangs to be sent out. Hiring of farm couples for season has used up available supply, spring work awaits only sunshine.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(780 jobseekers, 224 new; 683 men, 97 women). Adverse weather has deferred resumption of work on building contracts. Some work begun on new irrigation tunnel with expectation of considerable expansion of crews there. Other construction will be hiring in March and April. Shortage of stenographers, nurses, civil engineers, office clerks and electrical workers.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(2,261 jobseekers, 349 new; 1,923 men, 336 women). Further layoffs occurred in nearly all industries in February, building up a labor supply 400 above that of a year ago. Spring road conditions will cause still further idleness in logging. Resumption of lumber production is uncertain, due to market conditions. Many local workers are looking to Noxon dam as an employment possibility. No definite word available on plans for new pulp mill and plywood plant in the area.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—(315 jobseekers, 71 new; 262 men, 53 women). Closing of a retail store after 74 years of operation idled 20; a motor firm reduced mechanical force by five. Construction employment is virtually at zero, though two small jobs are continuing. Some road jobs expected to get started again in March. A new radar station is to be built in this area, starting this spring and finishing in 1958. Contract has been let.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(502 jobseekers, 79 new; 361 men, 141 women). Most construction crews are idle, though slight activity continues on railroad shop conversion. Full scale operations promised for late March and April. The Yellowstone Park construction contractor also will resume in April. Railroad operating crews continue at minimum strength. Sawmills have continued to operate, on stored log supply, but most of the woods crews are off until spring opens up their roads, probably in April.

MILES CITY, Baker, Broadus, Ekalaka, Colstrip, Forsyth, Jordan, Terry—(556 jobseekers, 149 new; 473 men, 83 women). Local building program for season is limited.

NEAR-RECORD LABOR FORCE BUILDS UP IN FEBRUARY

(Continued from Page One)

Increasing Demand in Late March

Upward trend in labor demand is expected to be felt in late March and to reach its peak in April and May. Resumption of farm operations, like construction and logging, awaits arrival of spring and disappearance of snow and ice. Other outdoor work and seasonal operations will be drawing upon the present huge surplus as they get back into stride.

RURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA ⁽¹⁾

of 1955 Estimates; Adjusted Estimates for 1956)

1955			EMPLOYMENT IN THOUSANDS													1956	
v.	Dec.	Aver.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.		
4	160.3	159.8	154.3	152.1	154.2	160.7	167.0	175.0	175.7	177.5	176.9	173.6	167.9	165.2	166.7		
4	20.7	20.4	20.4	19.8	19.5	19.3	20.4	21.9	22.3	22.6	22.5	22.8	21.8	21.1	21.2		
1	12.7	12.7	12.7	12.8	12.4	12.1	13.1	14.4	14.7	15.0	14.8	14.2	13.7	13.4	13.6		
3	7.0	7.1	7.1	7.0	6.7	6.4	7.4	8.5	8.7	8.9	8.7	8.2	7.6	7.1	7.7		
5	4.5	4.3	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.8	5.0	4.6		
3	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3		
3	8.0	7.7	7.7	7.0	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.7	8.6	8.1	7.7	7.6		
5	4.2	3.9	3.9	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.6	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.8	4.4	3.9	3.8		
6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6		
2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2		
0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	.9	.8	.9	.9	.9	1.0	1.0		
3	12.7	12.0	12.4	12.1	12.1	12.3	12.2	12.5	12.1	12.5	12.8	12.2	12.5	12.8	12.4		
5	8.8	8.4	8.9	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.6	8.6	8.3	8.7	8.8	8.6	8.7	9.0	8.7		
0	1.0	.9	.9	.9	.8	.8	.8	.9	.9	.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	.9	.9		
8	2.9	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.5	2.7	2.8	3.0	2.9	2.9	3.0	2.6	2.8	2.9	2.8		
2	8.1	10.4	7.1	6.6	7.3	10.4	12.7	14.1	14.5	15.1	15.4	14.5	12.6	10.2	11.7		
8	3.3	4.2	2.9	2.6	2.9	4.0	4.7	5.3	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.3	4.8	3.9	4.5		
2	1.9	2.8	1.6	1.5	1.8	3.1	4.3	4.7	4.6	5.2	5.6	5.0	3.7	2.5	3.6		
2	2.9	3.4	2.6	2.5	2.6	3.3	3.7	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.1	3.8	3.6		
8	21.4	21.7	20.9	20.7	20.7	21.3	22.0	22.5	22.9	23.2	22.7	22.3	21.6	21.1	21.8		
4	12.1	12.6	11.8	11.7	11.7	12.1	12.5	12.6	12.7	12.7	12.5	12.3	11.9	11.5	12.2		
9	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.8	4.1	4.1	4.3	4.2	4.1	3.9	3.9	3.9		
5	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.6	5.7	5.8	6.1	6.2	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.7	5.7		
1	41.6	39.9	38.6	38.1	39.0	40.3	41.2	43.0	43.4	43.8	43.6	42.5	41.8	42.7	41.5		
6	9.4	8.9	8.8	8.6	8.8	8.9	9.1	9.4	9.5	9.7	9.7	9.5	9.6	9.5	9.3		
5	32.2	31.0	29.8	29.5	30.2	31.4	32.1	33.6	33.9	34.1	33.9	33.0	32.2	33.2	32.2		
7	7.5	6.2	5.9	5.8	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.3	6.3	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	7.6	6.3		
5	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.6	4.8	4.9	4.9	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.0	5.0	4.8		
3	7.0	7.5	7.0	6.9	7.1	7.6	8.1	8.8	9.0	9.2	8.8	8.1	7.7	7.5	8.0		
2	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.0	6.0	6.3	6.3	6.5	6.6	6.4	6.5	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.3		
8	7.0	6.7	6.4	6.4	6.6	6.8	6.8	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.0	6.8	6.9	6.8		
4	5.4	5.3	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.8	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.6		
3	20.1	20.4	19.9	19.9	20.2	21.0	21.4	22.8	23.2	23.3	22.6	21.4	20.9	20.6	21.5		
6	2.4	3.1	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.7	3.0	4.0	4.3	4.3	3.9	3.0	2.7	2.5	3.2		
3	2.3	2.3	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3		
4	15.4	15.0	15.4	15.4	15.6	16.0	16.1	16.3	16.4	16.5	16.2	16.0	15.8	15.7	16.0		
9	30.3	29.7	29.6	29.5	29.9	30.6	31.5	32.4	31.6	31.2	31.6	32.2	30.9	31.0	31.0		
5	8.2	7.9	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.4	7.8	8.7	8.8	8.5	8.1	7.7	7.5	7.8	7.8		
4	22.1	21.8	22.4	22.3	22.7	23.2	23.7	23.7	22.8	22.7	23.5	24.4	23.4	23.2	23.2		
4	18.3	18.3	17.7	17.6	18.2	19.0	19.3	20.3	20.4	20.2	20.7	20.5	19.8	19.5	19.4		
8	2.8	2.9	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	2.9		
4	1.1	1.5	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.6	1.9	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.3	1.8	1.3	1.7		
4	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.4		
9	6.1	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.9	6.1	6.0	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.3	6.2	6.3	6.4	6.1		
6	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.8	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.8		
3	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.5		

- (1) Includes all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Excludes proprietors, armed forces personnel, domestic help, and self-employed.
- (2) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.
- (3) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing of non-durable products.

- (4) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, nonprofit membership organizations, and business not otherwise classified.
- (5) Same as (4) above, also includes mining, finance, insurance, and real estate.

EIGHT YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1949	137.1	135.5	137.7	144.0	147.3	151.0	150.0	150.1	149.8	148.2	146.1	143.3	145.0
1950	133.2	132.2	135.2	142.1	147.3	153.6	154.9	157.1	156.8	152.2	150.7	148.8	147.0
1951	141.9	139.4	140.3	145.9	149.4	154.1	153.5	154.6	154.3	152.4	151.7	150.6	149.0
1952	140.5	140.7	143.0	149.7	154.8	159.9	159.5	161.2	160.4	157.9	156.0	154.9	153.2
1953	145.8	144.5	146.3	149.7	153.1	158.0	158.5	160.6	160.3	159.6	157.6	156.4	154.2
1954	146.7	145.5	147.2	151.1	155.7	161.6	164.1	165.4	154.8	153.9	158.2	155.7	155.0
1955	148.4	146.8	147.4	153.4	158.4	166.8	168.2	170.4	169.8	165.9	162.4	160.3	159.8
1956	154.3	152.1	154.2	160.7	167.0	175.0	175.7	177.5	176.9	173.6	167.9	165.2	166.7

EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULUTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)
BY MAJOR INDUSTRIES AND MONTHS (Revision of 1955 Estimates; Adjusted Estimates for 1956)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT IN THOUSANDS													1955 Aver.	EMPLOYMENT IN THOUSANDS													1956 Aver.
	1955 Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1956 Jan.		Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.			
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	148.4	146.8	147.4	153.4	158.4	166.8	168.2	170.4	169.3	165.9	162.4	160.3	159.8	154.3	152.1	154.2	160.7	167.0	175.0	175.7	177.5	176.9	173.6	167.9	165.2	166.7		
Manufacturing	19.1	18.6	18.4	18.4	19.3	21.0	21.2	22.3	21.9	22.2	21.4	20.7	20.4	20.4	19.8	19.5	19.3	20.4	21.9	22.3	22.6	22.5	22.8	21.8	21.1	21.2		
Durable goods	11.7	11.5	11.3	11.2	12.0	13.3	13.5	14.3	14.1	13.5	13.1	12.7	12.7	12.7	12.8	12.4	12.1	13.1	14.4	14.7	15.0	14.8	14.2	13.7	13.4	13.6		
Lumber and timber products	6.6	6.3	6.1	6.0	6.7	7.7	7.8	8.2	8.3	7.7	7.3	7.0	7.1	7.1	7.0	6.7	6.4	7.4	8.5	8.7	8.9	8.7	8.2	7.6	7.1	7.7		
Primary metals	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.3	4.4	4.8	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.8	5.0	4.6		
Other (2)	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3		
Nondurable goods	7.4	7.1	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.7	7.7	8.0	7.8	8.7	8.3	8.0	7.7	7.7	7.0	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.7	8.6	8.1	7.7	7.6		
Food and kindred products	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.8	3.9	4.1	4.0	4.9	4.5	4.2	3.9	3.9	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.6	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.8	4.4	3.9	3.8		
Printing and publishing	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6		
Petroleum refining	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2		
Other (3)	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	.9	.8	.9	.9	1.0	1.0	1.0		
Mining	11.8	11.8	11.8	11.8	11.6	11.9	12.1	12.0	12.0	12.2	12.3	12.7	12.0	12.4	12.1	12.1	12.3	12.2	12.5	12.1	12.5	12.8	12.2	12.5	12.8	12.4		
Metal mining	8.4	8.5	8.7	8.6	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.1	8.4	8.5	8.8	8.4	8.9	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.6	8.6	8.3	8.7	8.8	8.6	8.7	9.0	8.7		
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	.9	.9	.9	.8	.8	.9	.9	.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	.9	.9	.9	.8	.8	.8	.9	.9	.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	.9	.9		
Petroleum-natural gas production	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.4	2.4	2.7	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.5	2.7	2.8	3.0	2.9	2.9	3.0	2.6	2.8	2.9	2.8		
Contract construction	7.7	7.4	7.4	9.4	11.3	12.6	13.1	13.2	13.0	11.6	10.2	8.1	10.4	7.1	6.6	7.3	10.4	12.7	14.1	14.5	15.1	15.4	14.5	12.6	10.2	11.7		
Contractors, building construction	3.4	3.1	3.0	3.9	4.7	5.2	5.4	5.1	5.1	4.3	3.8	3.3	4.2	2.9	2.6	2.9	4.0	4.7	5.3	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.3	4.8	3.9	4.5		
Contractors, other than building	1.3	1.3	1.3	2.0	2.9	3.6	4.0	4.4	4.1	3.9	3.2	1.9	2.8	1.6	1.5	1.8	3.1	4.3	4.7	4.6	5.2	5.6	5.0	3.7	2.5	3.6		
Contractors, special trade	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.5	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.4	3.2	2.9	3.4	2.6	2.5	2.6	3.3	3.7	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.1	3.8	3.6		
Transportation and utilities	20.4	20.3	20.4	21.0	21.9	22.6	22.9	22.8	22.7	22.3	21.8	21.4	21.7	20.9	20.7	20.7	21.3	22.0	22.5	22.9	23.2	22.7	22.3	21.6	21.1	21.8		
Interstate railroads	11.8	11.8	11.9	12.3	12.9	13.3	13.4	13.2	13.2	12.9	12.4	12.1	12.6	11.8	11.7	11.7	12.1	12.5	12.6	12.7	12.7	12.5	12.3	11.9	11.5	12.2		
Transportation except railroads	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.8	3.9	3.9	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.8	4.1	4.1	4.3	4.2	4.1	3.9	3.9	3.9		
Utilities including communication	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.4	5.5	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.6	5.7	5.8	6.1	6.2	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.7	5.7		
Trade	37.3	36.8	37.1	38.8	39.5	40.9	41.5	42.1	41.7	41.0	41.1	41.6	39.9	38.6	38.1	39.0	40.3	41.2	43.0	43.4	43.8	43.6	42.5	41.8	42.7	41.5		
Wholesale trade	8.5	8.4	8.4	8.6	8.6	8.7	8.9	9.1	9.1	9.3	9.6	9.4	8.9	8.8	8.6	8.8	8.9	9.1	9.4	9.5	9.7	9.7	9.5	9.6	9.5	9.3		
Retail trade	28.8	28.4	28.7	30.2	30.9	32.2	32.6	33.0	32.6	31.7	31.5	32.2	31.0	29.8	29.5	30.2	31.4	32.1	33.6	33.9	34.1	33.9	33.0	32.2	33.2	32.2		
General merchandise and apparel	5.8	5.6	5.7	6.0	6.0	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.5	6.7	7.5	6.2	5.9	5.8	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.3	6.3	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	7.6	6.3		
Food stores	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.6	4.8	4.9	4.9	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.0	4.8	4.8		
Eating and drinking establishments	6.8	6.7	6.7	7.3	7.7	8.3	8.4	8.6	8.3	7.6	7.3	7.0	7.5	7.0	6.9	7.1	7.6	8.1	8.8	9.0	9.2	8.8	8.1	7.7	7.5	8.0		
Automotive and filling station	5.7	5.6	5.7	5.9	6.0	6.2	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.0	6.0	6.3	6.3	6.5	6.6	6.4	6.5	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.3		
Trade not elsewhere classified	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.5	6.7	6.9	6.9	7.0	6.8	6.8	6.8	7.0	6.7	6.4	6.4	6.6	6.8	6.8	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.0	6.8	6.9	6.8		
Finance, insurance and real estate	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.8	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.6		
Services and miscellaneous	18.8	18.8	18.9	19.8	20.2	21.4	21.7	21.8	21.9	20.7	20.3	20.1	20.4	19.9	19.9	20.2	21.0	21.4	22.8	23.2	23.3	22.6	21.4	20.9	20.6	21.5		
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.7	2.9	3.9	4.1	4.1	3.8	2.9	2.6	2.4	3.1	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.7	3.0	4.0	4.3	4.3	3.9	3.0	2.7	2.5	3.2		
Personal services	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3		
Other (4)	14.2	14.2	14.3	14.9	15.0	15.2	15.2	15.3	15.8	15.5	15.4	15.4	15.0	15.4	15.4	15.6	16.0	16.1	16.3	16.4	16.5	16.2	16.0	15.8	15.7	16.0		
Government	28.3	28.1	28.4	29.1	29.4	31.1	30.4	30.6	30.6	30.5	29.9	30.3	29.7	29.6	29.5	29.9	30.6	31.5	32.4	31.6	31.2	31.6	32.2	30.9	31.0	31.0		
Federal	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.5	7.7	8.8	8.8	8.7	7.9	7.7	7.5	8.2	7.9	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.4	7.8	8.7	8.8	8.5	8.1	7.7	7.5	7.8	7.8		
State and local	21.0	20.8	21.1	21.6	21.7	22.3	21.6	21.9	22.7	22.8	22.4	22.1	21.8	22.4	22.3	22.7	23.2	23.7	23.7	22.8	22.7	23.5	24.4	23.4	23.2	23.2		
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	17.0	17.0	17.1	17.9	18.1	18.8	19.2	19.5	19.2	18.8	18.4	18.3	18.3	17.7	17.6	18.2	19.0	19.3	20.3	20.4	20.2	20.7	20.5	19.8	19.5	19.4		
Manufacturing	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.0	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	2.9		
Contract construction	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.7	1.4	1.1	1.5	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.6	1.9	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.3	1.8	1.3	1.7		
Transportation, utilities and communication	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.4		
Trade, wholesale and retail	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.5	5.5	5.7	5.7	5.9	5.8	5.9	5.9	6.1	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.9	6.1	6.0	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.3	6.2	6.3	6.4	6.1		
Services and miscellaneous (5)	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.8	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.8		
Government	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.5		

MONTANA LABOR MARKET
SUPPLEMENT

EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES, HOURS AND EARNINGS, SERIES 1955-1956

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE, Division of UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION COMMISSION

In Cooperation With

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS of the UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- (1) Includes all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Excludes proprietors, armed forces personnel, domestic help, and self-employed.
- (2) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.
- (3) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing of non-durable products.
- (4) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, nonprofit membership organizations, and business not otherwise classified.
- (5) Same as (4) above, also includes mining, finance, insurance, and real estate.

EIGHT YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1949	137.1	135.5	137.7	144.0	147.3	151.0	150.0	150.1	149.8	148.2	146.1	143.3	145.0
1950	133.2	132.2	135.2	142.1	147.3	153.6	154.9	157.1	156.8	152.2	150.7	148.8	147.0
1951	141.9	139.4	140.3	145.9	149.4	154.1	153.5	154.6	154.3	152.4	151.7	150.6	149.0
1952	140.5	140.7	143.0	149.7	154.8	159.9	159.5	161.2	160.4	157.9	156.0	154.9	153.2
1953	145.8	144.5	146.3	149.7	153.1	158.0	158.5	160.6	160.3	159.6	157.6	156.4	155.2
1954	146.7	145.5	147.2	151.1	155.7	161.6	164.1	165.4	154.8	153.9	158.2	155.7	154.0
1955	148.4	146.8	147.4	153.4	158.4	166.8	168.2	170.4	169.8	165.9	162.4	160.3	159.8
1956	154.3	152.1	154.2	160.7	167.0	175.0	175.7	177.5	176.9	173.6	167.9	165.2	166.7

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, WEEKLY HOURS, HOURLY EARNINGS, IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES (1)

BY MONTHS (Final Estimates Through December 31, 1956)

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS

	1955 Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1955 Aver.	1956 Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1956 Aver.
All Manufacturing	\$83.05	\$82.96	\$82.50	\$80.78	\$82.23	\$82.95	\$86.57	\$86.62	\$90.35	\$88.86	\$85.51	\$89.50	\$85.66	\$91.79	\$90.22	\$89.96	\$91.49	\$90.74	\$92.42	\$91.21	\$94.32	\$91.61	\$93.82	\$89.79	\$87.71	\$91.30
Durable Goods	83.60	85.26	83.85	80.60	81.67	84.33	86.65	88.89	95.03	91.50	85.94	90.67	86.74	95.59	93.22	91.84	91.98	92.13	94.18	91.94	98.00	93.79	96.98	89.63	86.72	93.06
Primary Metals	77.97	78.33	78.77	76.79	78.10	77.53	73.42	80.36	98.50	98.08	98.49	99.08	84.95	99.05	98.06	97.12	98.24	98.70	99.97	104.15	101.95	102.51	102.77	98.64	86.16	98.89
Nondurable Goods	82.68	79.26	80.43	81.04	83.13	80.46	86.40	82.03	82.48	85.03	84.87	87.68	83.08	85.37	84.79	86.85	90.69	87.92	88.74	89.55	87.05	86.95	88.43	90.01	90.04	87.99
Food and Kindred Products	73.49	65.53	68.21	70.04	71.95	70.77	77.86	72.13	69.93	75.20	79.10	78.46	73.15	71.18	66.57	70.73	69.46	72.38	76.06	75.42	73.75	69.82	74.50	79.44	80.33	73.59
All Mining	83.64	80.71	81.71	82.56	84.08	94.21	92.27	96.23	100.85	100.25	100.21	103.23	91.63	103.73	100.09	101.79	103.06	102.48	103.96	109.11	108.48	108.92	105.27	92.87	93.47	102.77
Metal Mining	79.01	77.27	77.67	79.43	79.56	97.09	91.47	98.52	104.09	99.69	101.91	105.01	90.77	105.96	101.38	101.99	103.02	102.80	106.31	111.97	110.88	109.41	109.04	89.96	89.69	103.41
Transportation and Utilities (except railroads)	75.70	78.15	78.66	78.87	78.52	77.88	81.20	82.35	82.17	80.20	80.61	80.63	79.61	79.12	80.44	81.50	79.80	83.53	83.01	85.10	87.26	86.80	86.90	87.65	86.91	84.08
Transportation	88.11	89.43	92.82	96.05	93.34	87.00	98.50	102.66	95.02	96.10	94.87	94.96	94.37	90.34	91.08	95.72	97.11	98.68	99.29	105.92	105.25	105.92	103.84	102.00	102.88	100.06
Utilities and Communications	69.61	72.70	71.78	70.47	71.20	73.61	72.92	72.81	75.83	72.50	73.69	73.77	72.62	73.38	75.01	74.55	71.32	76.00	74.42	74.32	77.68	76.39	77.90	80.40	78.97	75.87

AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS

	1955 Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1955 Aver.	1956 Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1956 Aver.
All Manufacturing	40.9	40.5	40.7	39.9	40.2	40.2	41.5	41.1	42.3	42.7	40.7	41.9	41.3	42.0	41.0	41.2	41.3	41.0	41.8	40.6	42.1	40.4	42.8	40.9	40.1	41.3
Durable Goods	41.2	41.7	41.8	40.4	40.4	40.7	41.3	42.0	43.7	42.6	40.3	42.2	41.6	43.5	42.5	42.5	42.0	41.8	42.5	40.8	43.4	41.0	43.2	40.2	39.4	41.9
Primary Metals	39.9	40.1	40.3	39.5	39.9	39.7	37.7	39.1	44.4	45.4	45.2	45.5	41.5	45.3	44.9	44.5	44.9	45.1	44.9	45.3	44.3	43.9	44.3	43.0	39.1	44.1
Nondurable Goods	40.7	38.5	39.1	39.1	39.9	39.2	41.7	39.8	39.9	42.9	41.4	41.3	40.4	39.4	38.3	39.1	40.0	39.5	40.4	40.1	39.2	39.2	42.3	42.0	41.4	40.1
Food and Kindred Products	43.5	39.2	40.6	41.3	41.5	40.9	44.3	41.7	41.1	44.8	44.2	44.1	42.5	39.1	37.4	39.6	38.2	39.8	42.3	41.3	40.2	39.1	43.4	44.0	44.0	40.9
All Mining	38.7	37.8	38.0	38.1	38.6	41.3	40.4	40.6	42.2	42.2	42.3	43.0	40.3	43.1	42.2	42.3	42.7	41.8	41.9	42.7	42.4	42.8	41.7	38.1	38.3	41.7
Metal Mining	37.5	37.1	37.1	37.9	37.7	42.8	40.5	41.2	43.5	42.4	43.2	43.7	40.3	44.0	42.9	42.9	43.3	42.2	43.0	43.6	43.0	43.3	43.2	37.7	37.5	42.2
Utilities	38.5	40.3	39.2	38.6	38.6	41.0	39.9	39.4	41.0	39.4	39.6	39.8	39.6	39.6	40.3	40.1	38.7	40.6	40.0	40.0	41.3	40.1	40.3	41.7	40.2	40.3

AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS

	1955 Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1955 Aver.	1956 Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1956 Aver.
All Manufacturing	2.03	2.05	2.03	2.02	2.05	2.07	2.09	2.11	2.13	2.08	2.10	2.14	2.08	2.19	2.20	2.18	2.22	2.21	2.21	2.25	2.24	2.27	2.19	2.20	2.19	2.21
Durable Goods	2.03	2.04	2.01	1.99	2.02	2.07	2.10	2.12	2.17	2.15	2.13	2.15	2.09	2.20	2.20	2.16	2.19	2.20	2.22	2.25	2.26	2.29	2.25	2.23	2.20	2.22
Primary Metals	1.96	1.95	1.96	1.95	1.96	1.95	1.95	2.06	2.22	2.16	2.18	2.18	2.05	2.19	2.18	2.18	2.19	2.19	2.23	2.30	2.30	2.33	2.32	2.30	2.20	2.24
Nondurable Goods	2.03	2.06	2.06	2.07	2.09	2.05	2.07	2.06	2.07	1.98	2.05	2.12	2.06	2.17	2.22	2.22	2.27	2.23	2.20	2.23	2.22	2.22	2.09	2.14	2.18	2.19
Food and Kindred Products	1.69	1.67	1.68	1.70	1.73	1.73	1.76	1.74	1.70	1.68	1.79	1.78	1.72	1.82	1.78	1.79	1.82	1.82	1.80	1.83	1.84	1.79	1.72	1.80	1.83	1.80
All Mining	2.16	2.14	2.15	2.17	2.18	2.28	2.29	2.37	2.39	2.37	2.37	2.40	2.28	2.41	2.37	2.40	2.41	2.45	2.48	2.55	2.56	2.55	2.53	2.44	2.44	2.47
Metal Mining	2.11	2.08	2.09	2.10	2.11	2.27	2.26	2.39	2.39	2.35	2.36	2.40	2.25	2.41	2.37	2.38	2.38	2.44	2.47	2.57	2.58	2.53	2.52	2.39	2.39	2.45
Utilities	1.81	1.80	1.83	1.83	1.84	1.79	1.83	1.85	1.85	1.84	1.86	1.85	1.83	1.85	1.86	1.86	1.84	1.87	1.86	1.86	1.88	1.91	1.93	1.93	1.96	1.89

(1) Revision of monthly estimates on basis of more complete reports. Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel. Average weekly and hourly earnings include overtime and other premium pay, not to be confused with rate of pay.

Average hourly earnings in the metal mining and primary metal processing industries were at a higher level from mid-1955 to late 1956 resulting from a combination of higher basic hourly rates and prevalence of a six-day work week in those industries during the period affected. Early in 1955, and again late in 1956, the five-day week prevailed in those industrial divisions. Fluctuations of hours worked in other industries were the product of seasonal influences, requiring temporary increases or decreases in number of basic or overtime hours. Average hourly earnings in all industries in the study underwent an upward shift for the two year period. Weekly earnings, being the product of hours of work and average hour-pay, moved in the same pattern.

THE MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATE SERIES

This supplement presents the annual summary of revised figures on non-farm employment by Montana industries, average hourly earnings, weekly hours, and weekly earnings, during 1955 and 1956, by months. The series was begun in 1947 as to number of employees, and in 1950 as to average hours and earnings in selected industries.

Estimates in this series are published monthly in the "Montana Labor Market" and are revised annually on the basis of more complete data. The monthly releases provide a current picture of employment conditions for the interim between annual revisions. Copies of the annual summaries for the years 1947 through 1954 may be had upon request.

EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURE BY MAJOR INDUSTRIES AND MONTHS (Revision)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT IN THOUSANDS										
	1955										
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	148.4	146.8	147.4	153.4	158.4	166.8	168.2	170.4	169.3	165.9	162.1
Manufacturing	19.1	18.6	18.4	18.4	19.3	21.0	21.2	22.3	21.9	22.2	21.8
Durable goods	11.7	11.5	11.3	11.2	12.0	13.3	13.5	14.3	14.1	13.5	13.3
Lumber and timber products	6.6	6.3	6.1	6.0	6.7	7.7	7.8	8.2	8.3	7.7	7.4
Primary metals	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.3	4.4	4.8	4.5	4.5	4.7
Other (2)	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
Nondurable goods	7.4	7.1	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.7	7.7	8.0	7.8	8.7	8.8
Food and kindred products	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.8	3.9	4.1	4.0	4.9	4.4
Printing and publishing	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6
Petroleum refining	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.1
Other (3)	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1
Mining	11.8	11.8	11.8	11.8	11.6	11.9	12.1	12.0	12.0	12.2	12.2
Metal mining	8.4	8.5	8.7	8.6	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.1	8.4	8.8
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	.9	.9	.9	.8	.8	.9	.9	.9	1.0	1.0	1.1
Petroleum-natural gas production	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.4	2.4	2.7	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.3
Contract construction	7.7	7.4	7.4	9.4	11.3	12.6	13.1	13.2	13.0	11.6	10.8
Contractors, building construction	3.4	3.1	3.0	3.9	4.7	5.2	5.4	5.1	5.1	4.3	3.8
Contractors, other than building	1.3	1.3	1.3	2.0	2.9	3.6	4.0	4.4	4.1	3.9	3.3
Contractors, special trade	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.5	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.4	3.7
Transportation and utilities	20.4	20.3	20.4	21.0	21.9	22.6	22.9	22.8	22.7	22.3	21.8
Interstate railroads	11.8	11.8	11.9	12.3	12.9	13.3	13.4	13.2	13.2	12.9	12.8
Transportation except railroads	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.8	3.9	3.9	4.0	3.9	3.8
Utilities including communication	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.4	5.5	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.5	5.2
Trade	37.3	36.8	37.1	38.8	39.5	40.9	41.5	42.1	41.7	41.0	41.1
Wholesale trade	8.5	8.4	8.4	8.6	8.6	8.7	8.9	9.1	9.1	9.3	9.4
Retail trade	28.8	28.4	28.7	30.2	30.9	32.2	32.6	33.0	32.6	31.7	31.7
General merchandise and apparel	5.8	5.6	5.7	6.0	6.0	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.5	6.6
Food stores	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.5	4.4
Eating and drinking establishments	6.8	6.7	6.7	7.3	7.7	8.3	8.4	8.6	8.3	7.6	7.7
Automotive and filling station	5.7	5.6	5.7	5.9	6.0	6.2	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.3	6.6
Trade not elsewhere classified	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.5	6.7	6.9	6.9	7.0	6.8	6.8	6.8
Finance, insurance and real estate	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.5
Services and miscellaneous	18.8	18.8	18.9	19.8	20.2	21.4	21.7	21.8	21.9	20.7	20.8
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.7	2.9	3.9	4.1	4.1	3.8	2.9	2.8
Personal services	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.2
Other (4)	14.2	14.2	14.3	14.9	15.0	15.2	15.2	15.3	15.8	15.5	15.8
Government	28.3	28.1	28.4	29.1	29.4	31.1	30.4	30.6	30.6	30.5	29.9
Federal	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.5	7.7	8.8	8.8	8.7	7.9	7.7	7.7
State and local	21.0	20.8	21.1	21.6	21.7	22.3	21.6	21.9	22.7	22.8	22.2
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	17.0	17.0	17.1	17.9	18.1	18.8	19.2	19.5	19.2	18.8	18.8
Manufacturing	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.0	2.8	2.8	2.8
Contract construction	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.7	1.7
Transportation, utilities and communication	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
Trade, wholesale and retail	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.5	5.5	5.7	5.7	5.9	5.8	5.9	5.9
Services and miscellaneous (5)	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.6
Government	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.3

MONTANA LABOR MARKET SUPPLEMENT

EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES, HOURS AND EARNINGS, SERIES 1955-1956

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE, Division of UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION COMMISSION

In Cooperation With

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS of the UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary March 1

(Continued from previous page)

ited, pointing to dim prospect for full employment. Two bridges in the area are under way, but both are using only skeleton crews this winter, and both contractors brought in most of their own crews. Farm employment prospects are healthy, with demand expected to develop from mid-March on through the season.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—(1,495 jobseekers, 470 new; 1,142 men, 353 women). Lumber and logging employment of general seasonal nature dominates this area, and is uncertain as spring approaches, due to faltering prices in the markets. Most small mills are shut down, larger mills have reduced forces. Construction contractors are also idle. Result is slackening of employment in trade and service establishments. Very few of present unemployed are willing to move to other areas for jobs.

POLSON—(526 jobseekers, 108 new; 476 men, 50 women). Re-opening of a principal sawmill and plywood plant in February called about 100 back to work; most other logging activity and all contract construction is shut down until milder weather prevails. New store building to be started, and contract on main road job up for March letting. No farm hiring at present.

SHELBY, Chester, Conrad—(402 jobseekers, 61 new; 347 men, 55 women). Outdoor work is nearly all shut down for the winter. Oil field employment also at a minimum. Construction program expected to get under way in April, though not equal in volume to the 1956 plans. Curtailment has been felt in circles of trade and service, where employment has also been reduced. Farm demand appears stronger, confined just now to livestock tenders, but field workers are already being sought.

SIDNEY—(383 jobseekers, 73 new; 348 men, 35 women). Virtually no construction employment except about 20 on the new power plant. Hiring on that and other outside work to begin in March, expected to be heavy by April. Several road jobs to start in April. New armory completed and its building crews are released. Less than normal hiring for agricultural work, wage offers below levels of recent years.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(472 jobseekers, 76 new; 411 men, 61 women). Logger crews have been withdrawn from the woods, deep snows. One sawmill to start up in March, others waiting until April. Work on Noxon dam has been reduced to a minimum, with a few skeleton crews still on the job. Hiring will resume there in March, with heaviest demands in April and May. Other construction will probably be hiring in late March, for several business buildings and an expansion of the power plant.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—(416 jobseekers, 83 new; 342 men, 74 women). Carpenters, driller helpers, and waitresses dominate the applicant list. Only active construction jobs are on an elevator at Poplar, a school addition and a church at Wolf Point. Since there is but little building activity in sight here, outlet for construction skills probably will be the new airbase at Glasgow. Five oil drilling rigs are in the area, only two a month ago.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	Feb. 1957 (2)	Jan. 1957 (3)	Feb. 1956	Jan. '57 to Feb. '57	Feb. '56 to Feb. '57
NONAGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES.....	157,500	159,000	152,100	—1,500	5,400
Manufacturing.....	19,400	20,200	19,800	— 800	— 400
Durable goods.....	12,500	12,600	12,800	— 100	— 300
Lumber and timber products.....	6,100	6,300	7,000	— 200	— 900
Primary metals.....	5,200	5,100	4,600	100	600
Other (4).....	1,200	1,200	1,200	0	0
Nondurable goods.....	6,900	7,600	7,000	— 700	— 100
Food and kindred products.....	3,100	3,800	3,300	— 700	— 200
Printing and publishing.....	1,700	1,600	1,600	100	100
Petroleum refining.....	1,100	1,200	1,100	— 100	0
Other (5).....	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0
Mining.....	12,500	12,600	12,100	— 100	400
Metal mining.....	9,000	8,900	8,800	100	200
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic.....	700	800	900	— 100	— 200
Petroleum-natural gas production.....	2,800	2,900	2,400	— 100	400
Contract Construction.....	8,200	8,700	6,600	— 500	1,600
Contractors, building construction.....	2,800	3,200	2,600	— 400	200
Contractors, other than building.....	1,900	2,000	1,500	— 100	400
Contractors, special trade.....	3,500	3,500	2,500	0	1,000
Transportation and utilities.....	20,600	20,600	20,700	0	— 100
Interstate railroads.....	11,100	11,200	11,700	— 100	— 600
Transportation except railroads.....	4,000	3,800	3,600	200	400
Utilities including communication.....	5,500	5,600	5,400	— 100	100
Trade.....	39,600	39,800	38,100	— 200	1,500
Wholesale trade.....	9,200	9,200	8,600	0	600
Retail trade.....	30,400	30,600	29,500	— 200	900
General merchandise and apparel.....	5,600	5,800	5,800	— 200	— 200
Food stores.....	4,900	4,900	4,400	0	500
Eating and drinking establishments.....	7,300	7,400	6,900	— 100	400
Automotive and filling stations.....	6,100	6,100	6,000	0	100
Retail trade not elsewhere classified.....	6,500	6,400	6,400	100	100
Finance, insurance and real estate.....	5,800	5,800	5,400	0	400
Services and miscellaneous.....	20,400	20,400	19,900	0	500
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.....	2,500	2,500	2,400	0	100
Personal services.....	2,200	2,200	2,100	0	100
Other (6).....	15,700	15,700	15,400	0	300
Government.....	31,000	30,900	29,500	100	1,500
Federal.....	7,400	7,400	7,200	0	200
State and local.....	23,600	23,500	22,300	100	1,300
Great Falls Area (Cascade County).....	18,400	18,700	17,600	— 300	800
Manufacturing.....	3,100	3,100	2,800	0	300
Contract construction.....	1,100	1,100	1,000	0	100
Transportation and utilities.....	2,300	2,300	2,300	0	0
Trade, wholesale and retail.....	5,800	5,900	5,600	— 100	200
Services and miscellaneous (7).....	3,700	3,800	3,500	— 100	200
Government.....	2,400	2,500	2,400	— 100	0

- (1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.
- (2) Preliminary estimates based on return from sample of 461 selected Montana establishments.
- (3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,032 such establishments.
- (4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.
- (5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.
- (6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, nonprofit membership organizations and business not otherwise classified.
- (7) Same as (6) above, also includes finance, real estate and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET TRANSACTIONS IN FEB. 1957 AND FEB. 1956

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placements								U. I. Claims Wk. 3-8	
	Feb. 1957		Feb. 1956		Feb. 1957		Feb. 1956		February, 1957				February, 1956				1957	1956
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.		
Anaconda.....	69	14	57	23	169	27	171	56	31	6	37	15	36	6	42	18	147	144
Billings.....	603	211	606	222	2,492	873	1,783	701	190	41	231	104	267	45	312	185	1,859	1,373
Bozeman.....	134	46	93	28	579	183	364	155	74	4	78	29	111	32	143	51	380	289
Butte.....	350	119	310	102	903	236	735	204	120	12	132	50	302	23	325	118	547	510
Cut Bank.....	77	30	62	18	450	186	362	142	11	1	12	6	12	—	12	9	277	235
Dillon.....	84	31	53	20	227	85	140	38	17	40	57	28	19	37	56	28	145	70
Glasgow.....	104	31	92	42	628	224	474	186	51	11	62	17	80	10	90	52	512	370
Glendive.....	142	53	131	57	280	102	203	81	79	19	98	40	97	28	125	48	170	153
Great Falls.....	433	176	453	119	1,694	578	1,299	459	164	40	204	69	204	101	305	104	1,208	1,025
Hamilton.....	76	33	122	51	707	209	422	140	5	9	14	5	23	4	27	11	378	297
Havre.....	106	33	142	32	458	181	500	219	62	13	75	30	121	14	135	71	369	412
Helena.....	224	80	175	60	780	346	650	269	72	16	88	36	74	19	93	27	612	482
Kalispell.....	349	111	249	92	2,261	844	1,846	539	75	23	98	28	65	1	66	16	2,079	1,750
Lewistown.....	71	24	89	38	315	122	321	101	27	5	32	9	44	11	55	18	237	241
Livingston.....	79	18	92	44	502	152	530	160	12	4	16	4	15	10	25	5	492	430
Miles City.....	149	47	108	45	556	238	368	165	46	7	53	18	79	26	105	41	450	299
Missoula.....	470	155	290	124	1,495	589	1,192	455	66	9	75	30	89	41	130	67	1,217	834
Polson.....	108	27	67	16	526	196	454	158	17	—	17	2	21	1	22	9	634	427
Shelby.....	61	17	111	29	402	146	294	108	20	5	25	15	50	7	57	32	261	231
Sidney.....	73	18	159	49	383	125	347	125	22	4	26	8	55	17	72	24	317	290
Thomp. Falls..	76	28	64	23	472	165	292	84	8	—	8	1	65	—	65	25	420	302
Wolf Point.....	83	29	92	34	416	162	314	147	25	4	29	4	34	5	39	12	342	267
TOTALS.....	3,921	1,331	3,617	1,268	16,695	5,969	13,061	4,692	1,194	273	1,467	548	1,863	438	2,301	971	13,053	10,401

*Includes 526 claims of Federal Employees UC Program, 364 same a year ago.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Feb. (1) 1957	Jan. (2) 1957	Feb. 1956	Feb. (1) 1957	Jan. (2) 1957	Feb. 1956	Feb. (1) 1957	Jan. (2) 1957	Feb. 1956
All Manufacturing.....	\$ 85.56	\$ 84.81	\$ 90.22	38.8	38.6	41.0	2.20	2.20	2.20
Durable goods.....	85.31	85.56	93.22	38.9	38.9	42.5	2.19	2.20	2.20
Primary metals.....	85.99	85.99	98.06	38.9	38.9	44.9	2.21	2.21	2.18
Nondurable goods.....	86.16	83.32	84.79	38.7	37.8	38.3	2.23	2.20	2.22
Food and kindred products.....	71.07	68.38	66.57	39.1	37.1	37.4	1.82	1.84	1.78
All Mining.....	92.49	92.36	100.09	38.1	38.2	42.2	2.43	2.42	2.37
Metal mining.....	87.99	87.99	101.38	37.4	37.4	42.9	2.35	2.35	2.37
Transportation and Utilities (except railrds.)	85.92	85.19	80.44						
Transportation (except railroads).....	97.50	100.87	91.08						
Utilities and communication.....	79.82	77.48	75.01	40.6	39.5	40.3	1.96	1.96	1.86

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
COMMISSION OF MONTANA

MITCHELL BUILDING

P. O. Box 1728

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